THIS

PENNY BOOI

CONTAINS THE

REED OF THE TRUE BELIEVERS

SHILOH,

THE

Man of God,

For whom all the SCRIPTURES were writte
d is well worthy the attention of all that are d
ntented with things as they are, and wish f
t happy time, when,----

Peace o'er the world her Olive wand extend,
And Man to Man for ever be a Friend.

Therefore Reader, whoever thou art,
Read and judge for thyself.

Flee no opinion man, because 'tis new,
Reject, if false, embrace it, if 'tis true ;
Examine first, throw prejudice aside,
Receive the Truth, and in that Truth abide.

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A PLAIN STATEMENT

OF THE

FAITH OF THE CHURCH

OF THE FIRST BORN,

OR FOLLOWERS OF

Shiloh.

IT hath been the custom of every new Sect of Religion that has arisen in the world, to have written Articles of their Belief, or to have a summary of the Doctrines they hold as true, and the Principles they profess to follow and promulgate among men. The followers of Shiloh, or those who are receiving the Truth as it is now revealed by God, have been frequently asked for something of this kind. It being as we have said customary with every new Sect to do so, and as we are considered a new Sect, though indeed we are no Sect according as the world may think, but having the truth of the Scriptures made known to us, by the unerring Spirit of Truth, that was promised to be given in these last days, and being made actual recipients of this Grace, we follow it, and though we do not deem it immediately necessary to make out a regular Creed, because all that WE BELIEVE, and what WE do NOT BELIEVE, is clearly and Scripturally set forth in our Writings, the Truth of which those find that take the pains to read and examine for themselves, yet so far we will not object to satisfy the wishes of Serious Enquirers, and will here set down in brief order the heads of what we do BELIEVE, and what we do DENY, that has hitherto been BELIEVED or professed by the Christian world, (so called.) And First, negatively,

WE do NOT BELIEVE that there is any local place called Heaven above the sky, for this reason, because the word saith, the Kingdom of God is within you, see Luke xvii chap. and 21st ver. Secondly,

WE do NOT BELIEVE that there are Three Persons in the Godhead, (as the world express it, (i. e. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost; for then there must be Three Gods. And if one is the Father, certainly he must have existed before the Son, the Son was not in Existence before the Father begat him, else if this is not allowed, those that BELIEVE in these Three Persons should find some other

name than Father, for the First God, for the very Title, *Father, supposes an existence prior to the Son*, then how can the Son be God from Eternity to Eternity, equal with the Father, as the professing Christians believe ?

Thirdly.—WE do NOT BELIEVE that a Virgin Woman did conceive a son literally as is stated in the creed of pro fessing Christians, nor that a child was born of any woman as the character they have said; and performed the miracles which they say he did, such as raising the dead literally to life, casting out of devils, walking upon the sea, rising up in the vessel, and rebuking the winds and the sea, so that there was a great calm, and many other wonders that are said to be done by such a person that appeared among the Jews at the time they say, or at any time.

Fourthly.—WE do NOT BELIEVE that such a person was crucified upon a cross of wood, and that he shed his blood literally to satisfy offended justice for the sins of mankind. Sin could not be atoned for in any such way, for if any one had then died, to atone for sin, the Devil would have then been destroyed; and we should not now hear the dismal lamentations in all our Churches every Sunday, by those, termed by the law, the Ministers of Religion, (viz.) "We are tied and bound with the fetters and chains of our sin and unbelief. O let the pityfulness of thy tender mercy loose us." Here it is acknowledged that they are not redeemed, but that they are yet in their sins, and therefore being guilty they pray for mercy, and in this very thing the Saviour is denied, for if they believed that he atoned for their sins, how is it that they say they are still miserable sinners? See the Litany of the Church of England service as follows:—"O God, the Son, Redeemer of the World, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners." And as we deny such a death, of course we deny the resurrection of any such person from the tomb, and the ascension up in the air, literally as the professing Christians say. We know there never was any such thing ever took place, and as no man ascended up above the sky, so we deny that any man will come down from there at the last day, as Babel teaches, to burn up the world. We deny any such day of judgment as has been set forth, (which is fully explained in the writings of Zion,) or that the world will be destroyed by fire, in the manner the professing Christians talk of, for we know that this earth will abide for ever. Ecclesiastes, chap. i. ver. 4. And heaven is not a place, but a state, and here on this earth will God dwell with men and women, making them happy in his love for ever and ever.

WE DENY there being such a place as the Teachers of

Babel call Hell, a world of fire and brimstone, to torment mankind in after death, as they say, to all Eternity.

WE DENY the Endless torments they speak of, neither do we believe that the dead bodies of men and women will ever arise out of the graves. Here we have briefly stated what we DO NOT BELIEVE, and now we will state what we DO BELIEVE.

WE BELIEVE that there is one Infinite Spirit, who is the Life and Existence of all things, and is without beginning or end, and who is infinite in Wisdom, Goodness, Mercy, Truth, Love and Power, whom we call God, who is to be worshipped alone, loved, praised, and adored, when he maketh himself known unto men, in his divine attributes of Wisdom, Goodness, Love, Mercy, Truth, and Power; redeeming us from all evil, as he promised to do by his Spirit in the prophets; and WE BELIEVE that men cannot worship God until he performeth this great work in them, so that in former ages and up to the present time, no true worship has been performed or given to God by men; it could not be, neither did God expect it from man, for he is not an Austere Man, reaping where he did not sow, or gathering where he had not strewed, no, as he in his infinite wisdom has kept back the knowledge of himself and of the scriptures till these last days from man, that we might know the truth of the scriptures which say, that "the times of Ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men every where to repent," i. e. God doth not blame the human race for their Ignorance, or for any thing that they have done in time past, but now that the True Light is made known, let them open their eyes and behold it, and turn from the darkness, and acknowledge that they have been blind, for this is all that is meant by repentance, and then their sins will be forgiven, and without this repentance they cannot be redeemed from sin, for it is written, "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin, but now you say, we see, therefore your sins remaineth." See Gospel by John, chap. ix. ver. 41.—These words stand for these last days, though the Scribes and Pharisees who think they see, and yet are blind, will not allow it, and they are very much offended to be now told that they are blind; but for judgment the new Man, the divine name, Jesus, is now come into the world, i. e. into his human nature, that they which see not, might see, and that those which see, might be made blind. Now all the Christian professors say they see aright concerning the Creation of Man, and Christ, &c., &c., yet they see not, and whoever among them will confess and acknowledge that they have not seen or known the truth of the Scriptures, when they see the writings of Zion upon *the Bible*, they will receive such light from God that never entered into the heart

of man to conceive, even the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ, as the Scriptures saith, and then those that see will be made blind, i. e. those who get the True Light, will see that hitherto all men have been blind as to the meaning of Scriptures, and to the mysteries of them, and to the way God intended to fulfil them, though all the Christian Teachers say they see, yet in the eyes of the enlightened, they are now proved to be blind, while those who obstinately continue in their blindness, and withstand the force and testimony of both Scripture and Reason, with a view to keep up their system of opinions, and the religion that they have built up, and resist the establishment of the Kingdom of God, their sin remaineth, they are the sinners, and the greatest of all sinners, yea, they are the only sinners, they are found resisting the light, and they would, that darkness should continue, because it is to their temporal profit, for they know if light abounds the Trade of Priestcraft is over. "And this is the condemnation, (viz.) that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil; for every one that doeth evil, hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest their deeds should be reproved."—See John, chap. iii. ver. 19. For it is written in the scriptures, "The dead cannot praise thee," again, "The living, the living shall praise thee, even as I do this day," saith the living man, in whom the Lord is come to dwell; again, "God is not the God of the dead but of the living." See Matthew, chap. xxii, ver. 32.

WE BELIEVE that God has been, and is manifest in all things visible in the creation, formation, and upholding of all things, but that he was never manifest in man in his divine attributes, as above-mentioned, so as to make men happy and glorious here on earth, that (as the Scriptures expresses it) "The righteous should shine forth as the Sun in the Kingdom of God." But that this great blessing for man was reserved exclusively to be given in the Latter Day.

WE BELIEVE that though thousands of the human race have been taught and influenced by the Spirit of God to believe that such grace was to be given, yet, that all mankind have been dead as to the knowledge of how he would reveal himself in man, and begin, and carry on the great and wonderful and merciful work of Human Redemption.

WE BELIEVE that to this divine, spiritual, and true knowledge, men have all been dead, and that it was the will of God it should be so, that when HE should send forth the Light and Truth of his word, given by his inspiration to all the Prophets, men might know that there is a Divine Power and Spirit that spoke of all things before-hand, which now He bringeth to pass, even as He said so long ago, that they might by this know that there is a God, and that by this

means men might be brought to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

WE BELIEVE that now, in this day (of which time this is the 7th year in which this is written, or 1832, of the world's date,) that the Great and Glorious God has sent forth his Son as he promised by the Prophets, which Son of God is the Spirit, or essence of all prophesies, as it is written, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." "I am the True Light," again, "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free, and if the Son make you free, ye shall be free indeed." So that the light and the truth of the sacred Scriptures that God has now sent forth, is the Son of God, the Redeemer of men, that God promised to send in the fulness of time.

And WE BELIEVE that God hath chosen one of the human race in whom he has revealed his Son, the name of which one of the human race, naturally by birth is John Ward, a native of Ireland, but whose spiritual name is Zion, because of the revelation of the Lord that is in him.

And WE BELIEVE that the word in him is the truth, and fulfilment of all prophesies; to him we pay no reverence whatever; only as a brother beloved of God as all men are, and we esteem him highly in love for his work's sake, believing him to be the minister of Christ (the True Light) to us;

WE BELIEVE that he is that vessel of God, of whom it is said in the Scriptures, "Thy Maker is thy Husband, the Lord of Hosts is his name, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel," and that God has begotten his Son, the Spirit of Truth in him, and that he has brought forth the Son to us, even our Redeemer, as it is written, "Out of Zion shall come forth the Deliverer."

WE BELIEVE that now the Redemption of man is begun,

And WE BELIEVE that all mankind will be redeemed by the Spirit and power of God from all evil, and put into the possession and enjoyment of all good, so that pain and sorrow shall be known no more;

And WE BELIEVE that this is the resurrection spoken of in the Scriptures.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Christ is now risen from the dead, and never before, and is become the first fruits of them that slept, and that all the train of good and powerful Spirits are come with him, which enter into men and women, giving them the new heart and right Spirit that God promised, as it is written, "And the Lord my God shall come and all the Saints with thee," See Zechariah, xiv chap. and the latter part of 5th verse,

WE BELIEVE that the Scriptures were given by inspiration of God and that from Genesis to Revelations they are not history, but are the Wisdom of God in a Mystery,

and are types, shadows, and figures, of what was to come to pass in the last days.

WE BELIEVE that the book of Genesis, the beginning of it, is not an account of the Creation of the Globe and all that we behold, but that it is speaking mystically of the new Creation of Man, which is proved (in the writings of Zion from the Scriptures.)

WE BELIEVE that this World never had a beginning, and that it never shall have an end;

WE BELIEVE that there are the same Spirits here on the earth now as there ever were.

WE BELIEVE that no one has ever gone to a place of Torment, or of Eternal Happiness, after the death of the body, that when they have died they have been no more as to the body, but the Spirits that animated bodies throughout all former ages, are here now on the earth.

WE BELIEVE those who receive the Word now, receive God, and that whether in the animal body or out of it, they live in their own source, God, the Eternal Fountain of all good.

WE BELIEVE they have a real, sensible, happy, and Eternal Existence, in God, and are in the enjoyment of all Ineffable Glories and delights, as God himself is.

WE BELIEVE that men will advance here on earth from this time forth, (Now that the Son of God is come,) from Glory to Glory, till by the Power and Spirit of God they are cleansed from all unrighteousness, and become perfect, holy, and happy beings, free from all corruption of mind, and filled with Light, Life, Truth, Love, and all Goodness.

WE further BELIEVE that all the men on earth will soon be of one mind about the meaning of Scripture, through the Divine Light proceeding or coming forth from Zion, and that one heart of love and wisdom will be in them all, that God will by his power put down all falsehood and delusion, wrong and oppression, and fully bring man to the enjoyment of the good that he promised, and caused to be recorded in the Scriptures for our comfort, and that the time is now actually begun, (for the Lord dwelleth in Zion, by his word,) and that here is the standard of Truth for all, and that neither Prophets, Popes, Bishops, nor Parsons, of any sect, nor of any age or time, have ever had, neither have any of those so called in this day, power given them from God to explain the Scriptures, No, this Prerogative the Lord has reserved to himself, and doth accomplish it now in this day, through his chosen instrument,

SIGNED,

On the Behalf of the Believers,

AT THE

FOLLOWING PLACES :--

For the whole Body in LONDON,—William Ward, and Thomas Crossley.

For NOTTINGHAM,—Thomas Kirk, sen. & Thomas Pierce.

— BIRMINGHAM,—Charles Bradley, sen. and Roger Holinsworth.

— CHESTERFIELD, and places adjacent,—John Brentnall, John Watson, and Charles Berrisford

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Dated at King's Arms Meeting House, Woolpack Lane, NOTTINGHAM, 7th year of the Christian Dispensation, of the World's date 1832.

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